



## **Identifying Hope Stealers – Pastor Mark Pope**

**February 27 & 28, 2021**

1. Pastor Mark began his talk by defining a Debbie Downer as someone with a negative or pessimistic view that speaks only of the wrong or depressing aspects of something. Without naming names 😊, how many Debbie Downers are typically in your daily interactions? How do they impact your day?
2. Read Ephesians 4:29. Has someone ever said something negative that caused you to doubt God's promises or doubt your faith? Explain how it made you feel and how it impacted you in your walk with God.
3. Read Numbers 13:27-33. Pastor Mark's first point was "hope was stolen by interjecting negativity early." Getting past harmful voices will likely require a severe spiritual posture. What does a severe spiritual posture look like in your life? What can you do to protect your spiritual well-being?
4. Read Ephesians 6:10-11,13. How can this passage help you maintain your hope? How does your hope help build others up when they are struggling with negativity or hopelessness?
5. Pastor Mark's second point was "hope was stolen by consistently exaggerating the truth." When does negativity get exaggerated quickly, and why does that happen so often? What can you do to combat it?
6. Read 1 Samuel 17:28-30. When someone questions your integrity or doubts your word, how do you react? Do you shut down, get defensive, or look for another to confirm your opinions?
7. When it comes to protecting our future, we must be ready to identify a lie. What lies deter us from having hope in God and hope in our future? Are there lying voices in your life you need to shut down to restore hope into your life? (Don't forget the lies you might tell yourself!)
8. How will you protect your heart and mind by confronting lies, exaggerations, and half-truths? What is your next step?